

CLAIMS

1. A method for generating fictitious computer file system content, comprising:
creating a template;
providing a collection of data items available to be inserted into the
5 template; and
populating the template with at least one data item from the collection.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the collection of data items comprises one or more names.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the collection of data items comprises one or
10 more dates.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the template is an e-mail message requiring at least one item of data to be complete.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the template is a word processing document requiring at least one item of data to be complete.

15 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the template is a spreadsheet requiring at least one item of data to be complete.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of populating comprises receiving a number from a random number generator.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the random number generator is a pseudo random
20 number generator.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the pseudo random number generator employs a unique key to generate numbers.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of populating comprises correlating a random number to an item of data in the collection.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of populating comprises inserting an item of data into the template.

5 12. The method of claim 1 further comprising including at least one spelling error in the template.

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising altering the populated template to introduce at least one spelling error.

10 14. The method of claim 13 wherein a random number is used to determine what the at least spelling error will be.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising introducing at least one grammatical error into the populated template.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

creating at least one other template; and

15 populating the at least one other template with at least one data item from the collection.

17. The method of claim 1 further comprising selecting data items in the collection to populate the template based at least in part on the relative probability of occurrence of each data item.

20 18. The method of claim 1 further comprising selecting data items in the collection to populate the template as a function of (1) a random number and (2) the relative probability of occurrence of each data item.

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19. The method of claim 18 wherein a pseudo random number generator provides the random number.

20. A method for generating fake computer file system content, comprising:

creating a plurality of templates;

5 providing a collection of data items to be inserted into the templates;

selecting one or more of said templates; and

populating each of the selected templates with at least one data item from the collection.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising associating a probability of

10 occurrence with each template and wherein the step of selecting comprises selecting one or more of said templates based at least in part on the associated probability of occurrence.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the template requires that at least two items of data be compatible with one another.

15 23. A system for generating fictitious computer file system content, comprising:

a computer configured to populate a template with at least one data item

from a collection of data items available to be inserted into the template; and

a database configured to store the collection;

wherein the computer includes memory configured to store the populated

20 template in a file system.

24. A computer program product for generating fictitious file system content for a computer, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

retrieving a template;
accessing a collection of data items available to be inserted into the
template; and
populating the template with at least one data item from the collection.

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